

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

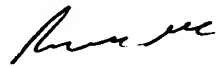
This application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/019,290, filed January 4, 2002, and which is a National Stage Application of PCT Application No. PCT/JP00/04442, filed July 4, 2000.

The present continuation application is submitted to prosecute new Claims 22-30. Claims 1-21 are canceled by the present amendment. Applicants submit that new claims are supported by the originally filed specification and drawings at least at Figure 11, thus, it is believed no new matter is added.

Accordingly, an action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

Bradley D. Lytle
Registration No. 40,073

GJM:BDL:ZSS:dnf

I:\ATTY\ZS\25\250461US2CONT\250461 PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT.DOC